

MARVEL

16

DAVID
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DAMNATION

BEN REILLY: THE SCARLET SPIDER®



Years ago, Miles Warren, one of Peter Parker's college professors, stole a sample of Peter's genetic material and used it to create a perfect clone of Spider-Man. With all of Peter's memories, the clone fled. Created, not born, and without an identity of his own, he gave himself a new name and made his own way in the world as...



BEN REILLY: THE SCARLET SPIDER

Following a misguided turn as a super villain, **BEN REILLY** has made a home for himself in Las Vegas. Becoming the **SCARLET SPIDER** once more, he has been trying to be a better man. But lately, Ben's choices have been less than heroic. After a visit from Lady Death, he learned that his very soul is now in jeopardy.

Dr. Stephen Strange recently repaired the damage done to Las Vegas from Hydra Cap's attack during **SECRET EMPIRE**. But Strange's efforts summoned the **HOTEL INFERNO** along with the evil **MEPHISTO** to the strip, who has transformed many of the revived souls--and the **AVENGERS**--into his demonic minions.

Now, Ben's joined the new **MIDNIGHT SONS** to save not only Strange but all of Vegas from...

DAMNATION

NOTE: THE EVENTS OF **BEN REILLY #16** TAKE PLACE DURING **DOCTOR STRANGE: DAMNATION #3**.

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YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, WONG?

HEADING INTO THE HOTEL INFERNO IS PRETTY MUCH GIVING MEPHISTO HOME-FIELD ADVANTAGE, ISN'T IT?

LOOK AROUND YOU. THE ENTIRETY OF LAS VEGAS IS HIS HOME FIELD!

HE WOULDN'T EXPECT US TO GO CHARGING IN. WE'LL HAVE THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.

YEAH, HERE'S THE THING-- THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY BEFORE THEY CHARGE INTO A BATTLE THEY'LL LOSE...

...IN ORDER TO TRY AND CONVINCE THEMSELVES THAT THEY HAVE A HOPE IN HELL.





EXCEPT I
CAN BE SURE.
IT'S A SNAP.

IF ANYONE SETS
OFF MY SPIDER-
SENSE, THAT
MEANS THEY'RE
EVIL DEMONS.

IF THEY
DON'T,
THEY'RE
NOT.



THWIP!

THEREE
WE ARE.

A NICE
BARRIER OF
WEBBING.

I POURED IT ON
THICK ENOUGH THAT
IT SHOULD LAST FOR
A COUPLE HOURS.

I'D LIKE TO SEE
ANYONE TRY TO
GET THROUGH
THAT.

NOW, I
JUST WAIT.

AH. MY
FIRST
TEST.

THAT DIDN'T
TAKE LONG.



HUH?!

SPIDER-
SENSE
GOING
NUTS!



CRAP.

CRAP CRAP
CRAP.

GLUBBB!

URKKKH!

WAM

THUUD



WHY DIDN'T MY SPIDER-SENSE TRIGGER WHEN THEY FIRST SHOWED UP?!

THEY WERE DEMONS. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT!



THE LAST PERSON I CAN THINK OF THAT MY SPIDER-SENSE DIDN'T REACT TO WAS VENOM.

DO THESE PEOPLE HAVE SYMBIOTES, THEN?

NO. THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

SLAM

IT'S NOT LIKE EVERYONE IN THE WORLD IS A VENOM, NOW.



HEY!

WHAT DID YOU DO TO THOSE COPS?!

THEY AREN'T COPS! THEY'RE DEMONS!

ARE YOU KIDDING?

NO!

DEMONS ARE RUNNING AROUND IN VEGAS?

YES! SO GO HOME, LOCK THE DOORS, PULL THE DRAPES AND HIDE UNDER YOUR BEDS.

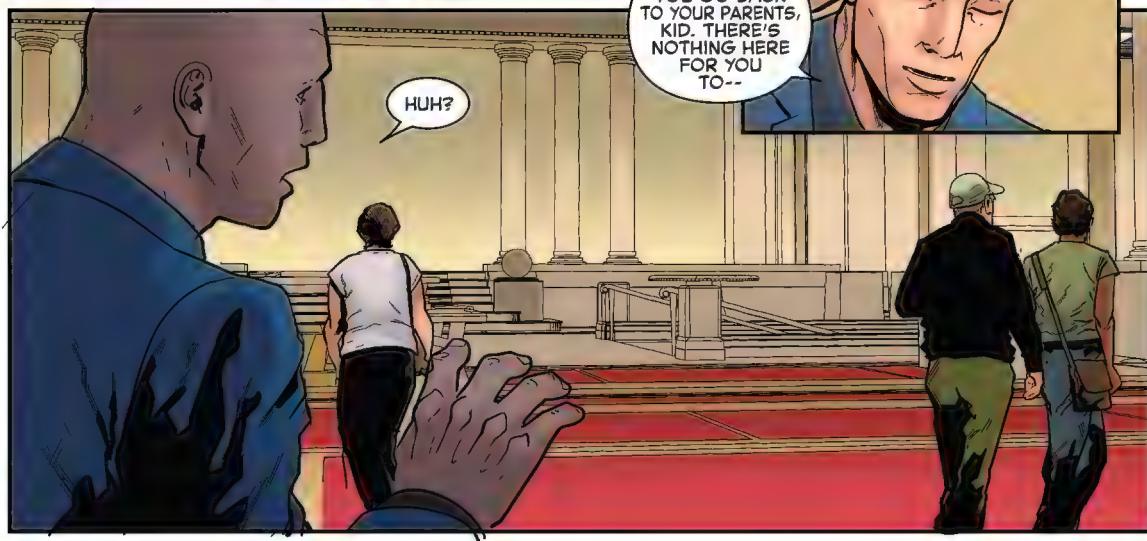
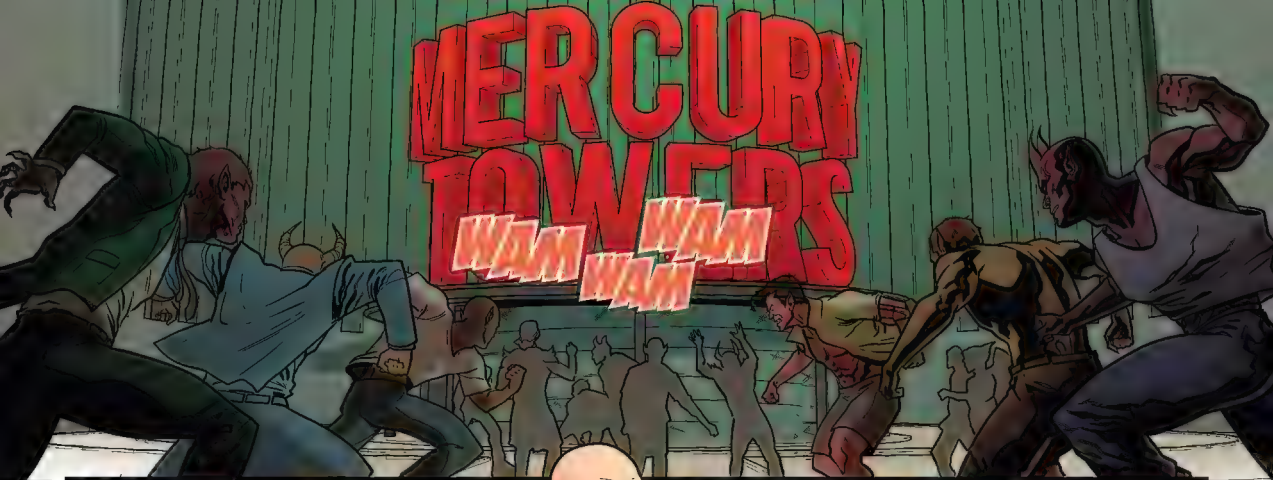
I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.

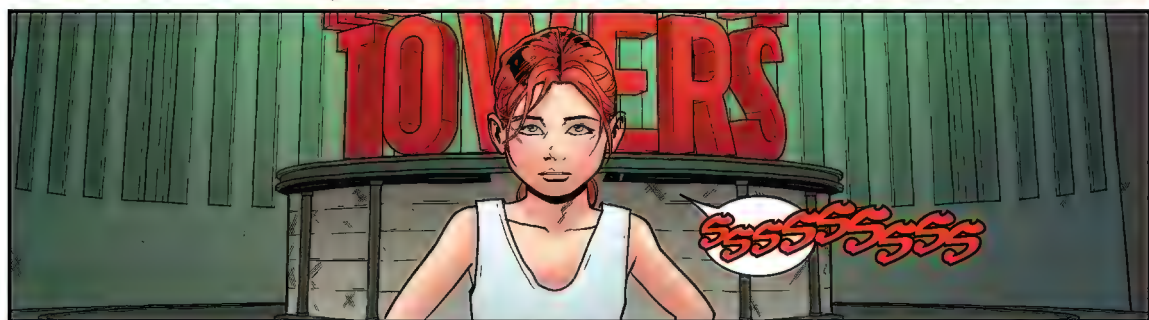
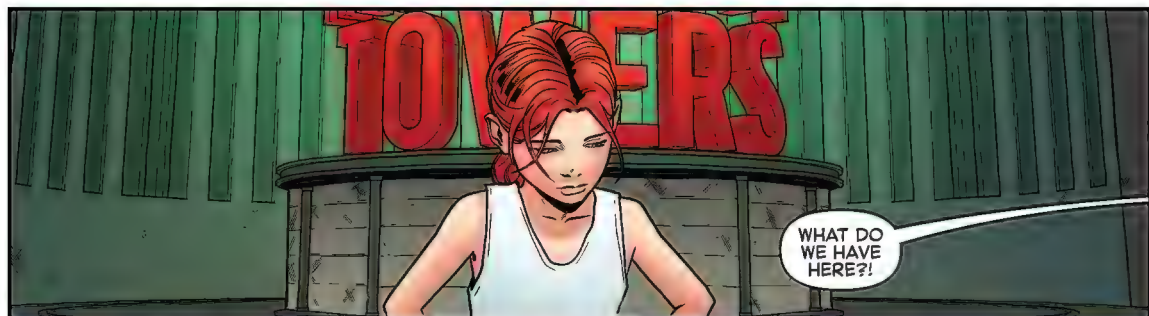




WE CUT
YOU TO
PIECES!

SO, IT'S
GONNA BE ONE
OF THOSE
DAYS, HUH?





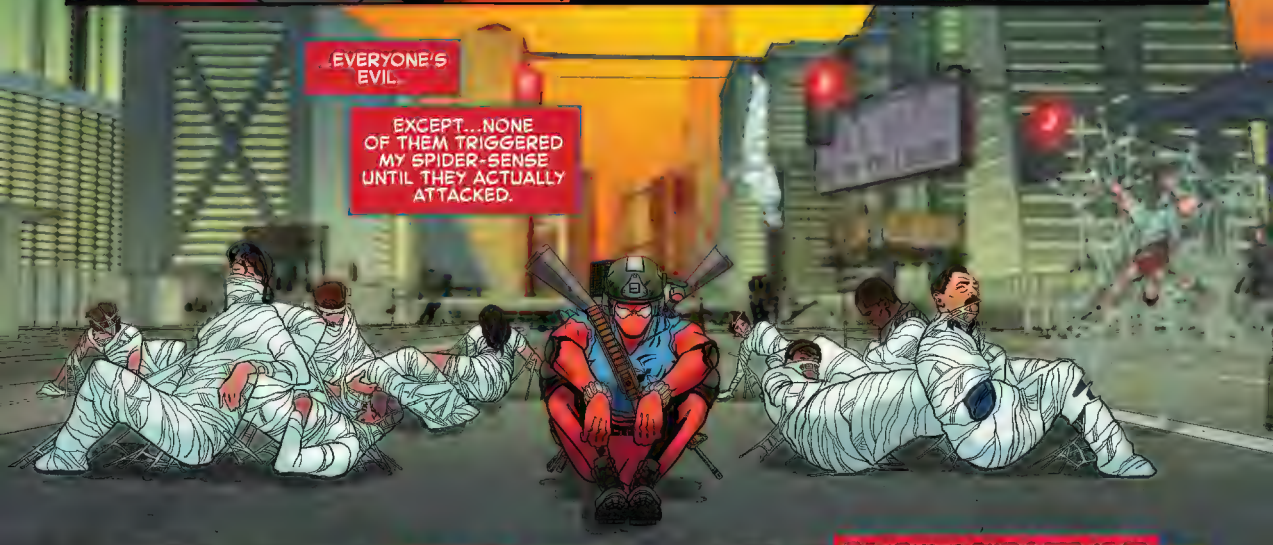


HUFF...
HUFF...

SO...
YEAH.

EVERYONE'S
EVIL.

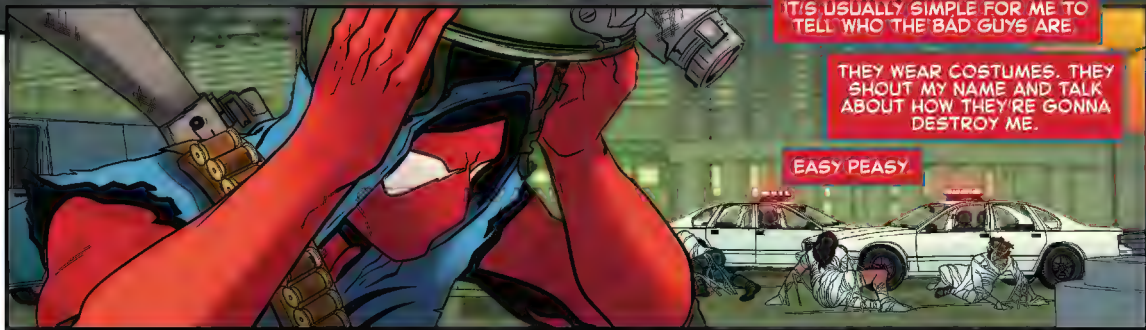
EXCEPT... NONE
OF THEM TRIGGERED
MY SPIDER-SENSE
UNTIL THEY ACTUALLY
ATTACKED.



IT'S USUALLY SIMPLE FOR ME TO
TELL WHO THE BAD GUYS ARE.

THEY WEAR COSTUMES. THEY
SHOUT MY NAME AND TALK
ABOUT HOW THEY'RE GONNA
DESTROY ME.

EASY PEASY.



BUT NOW THE DEMONS
JUST LOOK LIKE
ORDINARY PEOPLE.

WELL,
FOR VEGAS,
ANYWAY.

I'VE BEEN FIGHTING THE
BAD GUYS FOR YEARS. HOW
CAN I NOT BE ABLE TO TELL
WHO THEY ARE BY NOW?

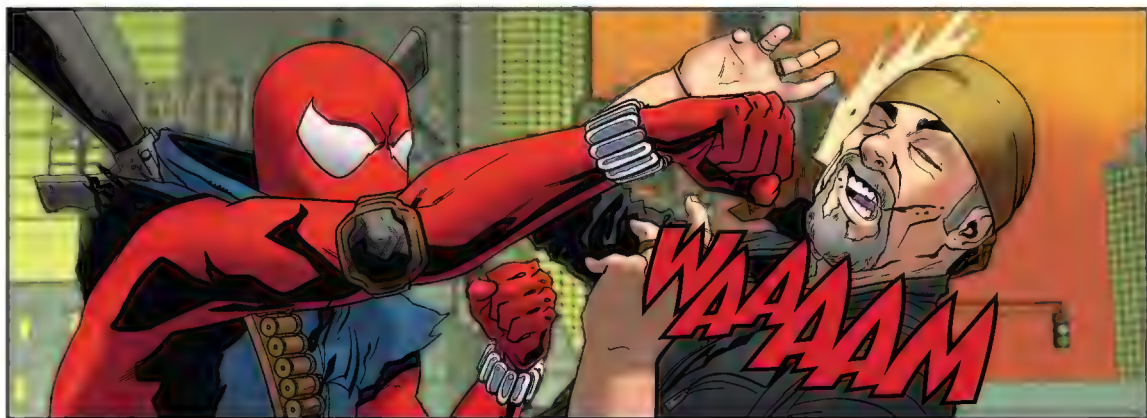


HEY!
SPIDER
GUY!

ARE YOU
KIDDING
ME?

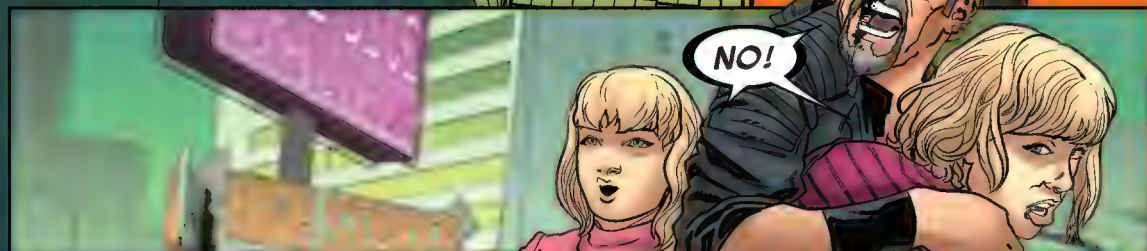


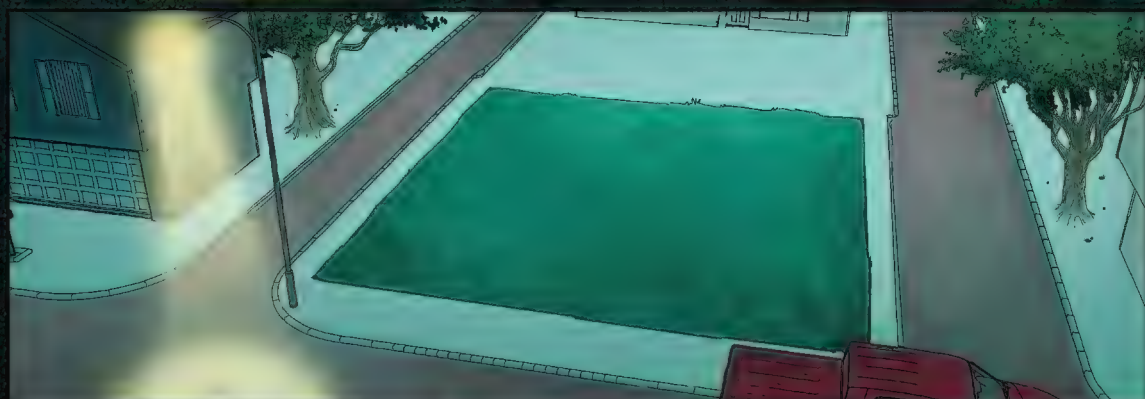
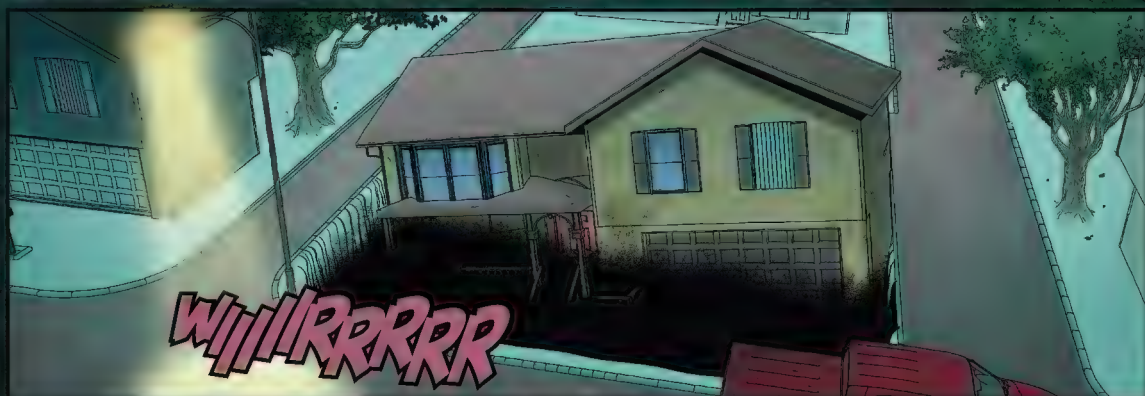
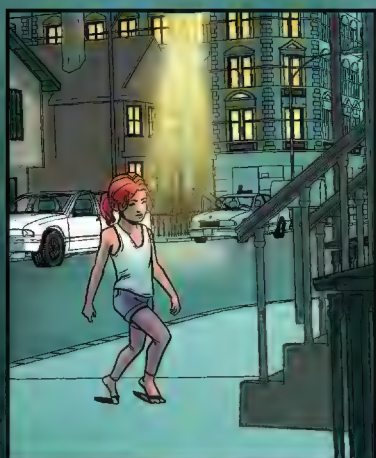
















YOU MORTALS
CALL THIS PLACE
DEVILS TOWER. IT'S
NOT AS *CUSHY* AS THE
HOTEL INFERNO, BUT
IT'S NOT WITHOUT
ITS CHARMS.

YOU MUST
UNDERSTAND,
SCARLET, THAT I
CANNOT READ MINDS,
BUT I CAN READ
SOULS.

AND
YOURS IS A
MOST BLACKENED,
TORMENTED
THING.

THE FACT
OF THE MATTER
IS THAT YOU REALLY
CAN'T TELL GOOD
FROM BAD. NOT
IN OTHERS...

AND MOST
IMPORTANTLY,
NOT EVEN IN
YOURSELF.

THAT'S
WHY SO MANY
SEE YOU AS A
VILLAIN.

I'M NOT
A VILLAIN.

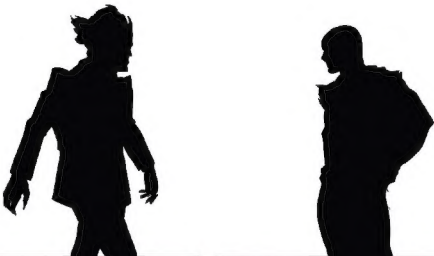
OH? ASK
SPIDER-MAN OR
KAINE. ASK THAT
LITTLE GIRL WHOSE
INNOCENT FATHER
YOU BEAT UP. THEY'D
DISAGREE.

THE
TRUTH IS,
SCARLET...

...EVEN
YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU ARE.

AND IF
YOU CAN'T
ADMIT THAT TO ME,
AT LEAST ADMIT IT
TO YOURSELF.





I'VE BEEN
KEEPING AN EYE
ON YOU FOR QUITE
SOME TIME, SCARLET.
I KNOW EVERYTHING
ABOUT YOU.

YOUR AUNT
JUNE HAS BEEN
KIDNAPPED,
HASN'T SHE?



I CAN
GET HER
BACK FOR
YOU.

THE LITTLE
GIRL, ABIGAIL,
WHOM YOU ARE
TRYING TO CURE
OF A FATAL
DISEASE?

I
CAN *SAVE*
HER.

BUT MOST
IMPORTANTLY...
YOUR SOUL?



I CAN
PURIFY
IT.

YOU'RE...
YOU'RE
LYING.

I'M LORD OF
EVIL. YOU THINK I CAN'T
ABSORB IT FROM A SOUL,
CLEANSE IT? IT'S EASY.



JOIN
ME, SCARLET
SPIDER...AND YOU
WILL HAVE A FRESH
START. YOU WILL BE
WHAT YOU TRULY
WANT TO BE.

A HERO.



DEAL.

TO BE
CONTINUED!

**DON'T MISS A SINGLE
PULSE-POUNDING PAGE OF**

DAMNATION

ASK YOUR COMIC SHOP ABOUT THESE *HELLISHLY* GOOD TITLES!



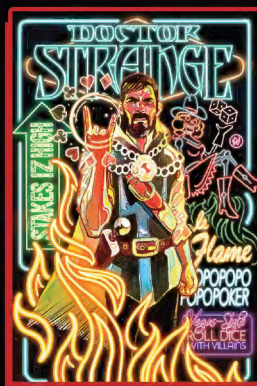
**DAMNATION #1
ON SALE NOW!**



**DOCTOR STRANGE #386
ON SALE NOW!**



**DAMNATION #2
ON SALE NOW!**



**DOCTOR STRANGE #387
ON SALE NOW!**



**SCARLET SPIDER #15
ON SALE NOW!**



**DAMNATION #3
ON SALE NOW!**



**IRON FIST #78
ON SALE NOW!**



**SCARLET SPIDER #16
ON SALE NOW!**



**JOHNNY BLAZE - GHOST
RIDER #1 ON SALE NOW!**

AND DON'T MISS THE STORY'S EPIC CONCLUSION ON SALE NEXT MONTH!



AN  ROBOROS
RELEASE - DCP